



9/8/09

Dear Provider:

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was created in 1997 to provide affordable health coverage to low-income children in working families who make too much money to be eligible for Medicaid but not enough to afford private coverage. Nationally, the program covers more than 7 million children. In February of 2009, Congress enacted, and President Obama signed, legislation that renewed CHIP through the end of 2013 and expanded its scope. This legislation is known as the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act, or CHIPRA.

The CHIPRA legislation includes provisions that are designed to improve access to dental care for children. States must now include dental coverage in their CHIP benefit package. While Kansas has always provided this benefit, some states did not. The Act also includes provisions related to the development and dissemination of dental educational materials as well as state requirements to post lists of participating dental providers. For Kansas, this will mean:

- Maintaining the list of dental providers that has already been posted on the *Insure Kids Now* website <http://www.insurekidsnow.gov/>
- Educating parents about oral health

One way Kansas will educate parents on the risk of early childhood caries and the importance of a dental visit by the age of one, is to make educational materials available in the clinics that provide or support perinatal care services to low income children. CMS has indicated that the *Healthy Start Grow Smart* brochures found on their website <http://cms.ntis.gov/> will meet this requirement. **In order for the state of Kansas to ensure that the federal funding requirements are met and that parents and children receive the information they need, it is essential that your clinic make these brochures available. Please download or order these free brochures** by visiting the website listed above. If you have questions or concerns please call 800-933-6593.

Thank you,

Barbara E. Langner

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